

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM
PRESENT
THE HONOURABLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE MR. SOUMEN SEN
&
THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE SYAM KUMAR V.M.**

**Monday, the 1st day of June 2026 / 11th Jyaishta, 1948
WP(C) NO. 42844 OF 2025(R)**

**SUO MOTU WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) INITIATED BY THE HIGH COURT
REGARDING LACK OF PROPER INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE MEDIATION
CENTRES ACROSS THE STATE.**

RESPONDENTS:

1. STATE OF KERALA, REPRESENTED BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695 001.
2. THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF SECRETARY, HOME DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695 001.
3. UNION OF INDIA, REPRESENTED BY THE SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE, 4TH FLOOR, A-WING, SHASTRI BHAWAN, NEW DELHI - 110 001.
4. THE LAW SECRETARY, LAW DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695 001.
5. THE REGISTRAR (DISTRICT JUDICIARY), HIGH COURT OF KERALA, MARINE DRIVE, ERNAKULAM - 682 031.
6. THE MEMBER SECRETARY, KERALA STATE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY, NIYAMA SAHAYA BHAVAN, OPPOSITE ADVOCATE GENERAL OFFICE, KOCHI, PIN - 682 031.
7. THE DIRECTOR, KERALA STATE MEDIATION AND CONCILIATION CENTRE, RAM MOHAN PALACE, HIGH COURT OF KERALA, KOCHI, PIN - 682 031.

Suo motu writ petition (civil) praying that in the circumstances stated in the affidavit filed along with the WP(C) the High Court be pleased to issue necessary directions to the Government and other authorities concerned to provide the infrastructural requirements of each mediation sub centre as listed in Ext P3 as well as to ensure adequate support staff and regular office stationary.

This petition coming again on for orders upon perusing the petition and the affidavit filed in support of WP(C), this Court's order dated 25/05/2026 and upon hearing the arguments of advocates along with SRI.ADARSH KUMAR, AMICUS CURIAE, the court passed the following:

P.T.O.

MONDAY, THE 1ST DAY OF JUNE 2026

WP(C) No. 42844 of 2025

SUO MOTU PROCEEDINGS INITIATED BY THE HIGH COURT

VS

STATE OF KERALA REPRESENTED BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY &

OTHERS

ADVS FOR PETITIONER/S:

SUO MOTU PROCEEDINGS INITIATED BY THE HIGH COURT (IN PERSON)

ADVS FOR RESPONDENT/S:

GOVERNMENT PLEADER, SMT.SHIBI.K.P., SHRI.LEO LUKOSE, SMT.NAYANPALLY RAMOLA, O.M.SHALINA, DEPUTY SOLICITOR GENERAL OF INDIA, SHRI.N.MANOJ KUMAR, STATE ATTORNEY



W.P.(C) Nos.42844 and 48551/2025

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MONDAY, THE 1ST DAY OF JUNE 2026

WP(C) No. 48551 of 2025

ADV.BABU KUMAR

VS

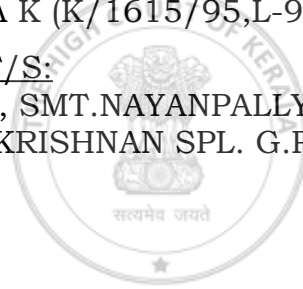
THE MEDIATION & CONCILIATION PROJECT COMMITTEE OF
SUPREME COURT OF INDIA & OTHERS

ADVS FOR PETITIONER/S:

SRI.P.R.SHAJI, SRI.B.S.SURESH (CHIRAKKARA), SHRI.A.R.GEORGE,
SRI.MATHEW KURIAKOSE, SRI.SAJU.S.POONTHODATH,
SMT.M.A.ZOHRA, SMT.P.A.REZIYA, SMT.M.CHANDRALEKHA,
SHRI.P.T.GIRIJAN, LATHA K (K/1615/95,L-91)

ADVS FOR RESPONDENT/S:

GOVERNMENT PLEADER, SMT.NAYANPALLY RAMOLA, SHRI.LEO
LUKOSE, SHRI.C.E.UNNIKRISHNAN SPL. G.P TO A.G



W.P.(C) Nos.42844 and 48551/2025

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SOUMEN SEN, C.J.
and
SYAM KUMAR V.M., J.

W.P.(C) Nos.42844 and 48551 of 2025

Dated: 1st June 2026

Appearance:

For the Petitioner : Mr. P.R. Shaji
in W.P.(C) No.48551/2025

For the Respondents: Ms. Vinitha B,
Senior Government Pleader
Ms. O.M. Shalina, DSGI for R3
Ms Santhi V representing
Ms. Shibi K.P. for R5
Mr. Leo Lukose for R6
and R3 in W.P.(C) No.48551/2025
Ms. Nayanpally Ramola for R7

ORDER

Soumen Sen, C.J.

We have heard the learned Counsel for the parties.

2. It is submitted that the amount sanctioned has not yet been fully disbursed.

3. The Secretary, Kerala State Legal Services Authority (KeLSA), shall ensure that the victim compensation is paid in full within a fortnight from the date, out of the

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funds already allocated by the Government for victim compensation. The Secretary shall also indicate whether any further amount has become due towards victim compensation in the meantime. The Government has already sanctioned funds towards the remuneration payable to the Mediators up to 31st December 2025.

4. A report should be filed by the Secretary, KeLSA indicating whether the entire amount has been utilized and exhausted towards the payment of remuneration to the Mediators, if not it should be completed within a fortnight from date.

4.1 The Secretary, KeLSA, shall inform the Finance Secretary and the Law Secretary to the Government regarding the requirement for any further allocation of funds towards victim compensation and the remuneration payable to the Mediators that has fallen due in the meantime.

5. All the District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs) and KeLSA must ensure that the remuneration of the Mediators is paid as expeditiously as possible and a monthly statement should be furnished by the DLSA Secretaries to the

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Secretary, KeLSA with regard to the allocation and utilization of funds towards victim compensation and remuneration of the Mediators.

6. In the affidavit filed by the Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department dated 23rd May 2026, information has been furnished regarding the steps taken by the Government on the proposals relating to the infrastructural requirements of the Mediation Centres, the creation of posts of Nodal Officers in the Mediation Sub-Centres, and the procurement of infrastructure and other essential items required for the functioning of the Mediation Centres. Further, the proposal for enhancement of the honorarium payable to the Mediators with effect from 1st April 2026 is also under the consideration of the Government.

7. The Additional Chief Secretary to the Government, Finance Department, is directed to file an affidavit disclosing the steps taken subsequent to 23rd May 2026 with respect to the proposals that are pending consideration.

7.1 In the event of any request being made by the Secretary, KeLSA for the allocation of additional funds

W.P.(C) Nos.42844 and 48551/2025

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towards victim compensation or the remuneration payable to the Mediators, the Additional Chief Secretary to the Government, Finance Department, shall expedite the process and ensure that the requisite funds are released in accordance with such requisition or demand made by KeLSA, upon due verification.

8. In view of the statement made in paragraph 4 of the aforesaid affidavit that a sum of Rs.1,24,50,000/- (Rupees One Crore Twenty-Four Lakhs and Fifty Thousand only) has been sanctioned under the Head of Account "2014-00-114-93-00-34-03-N-V", we direct that the said funds be released at the earliest so as to enable the Mediation Centres to procure the items mentioned in paragraph 3 of the affidavit.

List the cases on 29th June 2026.

Sd/-
SOUMEN SEN,
CHIEF JUSTICE

Sd/-
SYAM KUMAR V.M.,
JUDGE

jjj